

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 146044

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AF/S/RDOLS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL DURBAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146044

EYES ONLY FOR HOLMES FROM DAWSON

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/81

IT IS PROBABLY FORTUITOUS THAT YOUR STOP IN MONROVIA COMES ON WEEKEND/HOLIDAY. PROBLEMS ARE IN-HOUSE AND SHOULD BE HANDLED PRIVATELY. ALSO, ROSS FILLING IN FOR PAO WHO ON R&R. ITEMS TO NOTE:

A. REQUEST THOROUGH BRIEFING ACTING PAO AND EMBASSY POL ON AFRICAN PROGRAM CENTER PROBLEM.

B. CENTER RECENTLY MOVED INTO NEW QUARTERS BUT TWO PROBLEMS REMAIN;1) LATE ARRIVAL OF CERTAIN MATERIALS AND FURNISHINGS, ALSO POOR WORK ON PART OF CONTRACTOR MEANS NEW FACILITY STILL INCOMPLETE;2) POST AND MISSION ENGAGED IN PROTRACTED CONFLICT WITH PREVIOUS LANDLORD, WHO REFUSED ACCEPT KEYS AND FINAL PAYMENT RENT. HE HAS ENGAGED LAWYER WHOSE MOST RECENT ACTION WAS TO APPEAL TO GOL THROUGH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR ASSISTANCE. WILL APPRECIATE YOUR ON-THE-SPOT ASSESSMENT CONDITION OF CENTER AND LEGAL ENTANGLEMENT WITH PREVIOUS LANDLORD. YOU MAY FIND IT POSSIBLE CONFER WITH MISSION LAWYER WELL AS PRESENT LANDLORD (MAXWELL), WHO HAS LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY PREVIOUS CONTRACT AS PART OF OUR NEW RENTAL AGREEMENT.

C. I RECEIVED RECENTLY LETTER FROM IMMOGENE COLLINS, ONE OF TOP LOCALS, PROTESTING HER DISMISSAL ON GROUND "NECESSITY TO REDUCE STAFF." ARGUES THIS ILLOGICAL VIEW OTHER RECENT HIRINGS
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PAGE 02 STATE 146044

BY POST. LETTER ALLEGES DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT ON OTHER

COUNTS. ASCERTAIN FROM ROSS POSSIBILITY DIFFICULTIES ARISING CONNECTION THIS ISSUE IN VIEW FACT COLLINS SENT COPIES HER LENGTHY LETTER TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT AND MINISTRY OF LABOR. DO NOT RECOMMEND YOUR DISCUSSING ISSUE WITH COLLINS BUT NEED YOUR PERSONAL ASSESSMENT VARIOUS FACTORS.

D. BLAKE ROBINSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL FOUNDATION, IS CANDIDATE FOR CAO DAKAR. HE RETURNED MONROVIA RECENTLY BECAUSE PROCESSING PROVED MORE PROTRACTED THAN ANTICIPATED. HOPEFULLY, HE REMAINS INTERESTED IN POSITION DAKAR FOR WHICH HE STILL LONE CANDIDATE. DETERMINE WHETHER HE CAN GO DIRECTLY FROM MONROVIA EVENT SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION HIS PROCESSING. ALSO, YOU MAY WISH DISCUSS WITH ROBINSON PROBLEMS OF FOUNDATION, WHICH ARE NUMEROUS FROM STANDPOINT OF CU.

E. APART FROM PROBLEMS OF MOVE AND INCOMPLETENESS NEW CENTER, PACE OF PROGRAMMING MONROVIA HAS BEEN ON CONTINUAL UPSWING. POST HAS USED STAGS AND OTHER SPEAKERS IMAGINATIVELY AND HAS OTHER PROGRAMS BOOKED. ASSUME PROGRAMMING CLIMATE CONTINUES FAVORABLE, BUT YOU MAY WISH CHECK IN VIEW GRADUALLY CHANGING POLITICAL SITUATION IN LIBERIA.

WHEN TEEPLE RETURNS FROM R&R, JULY, ROSS DEPARTING FOR HL AND TRANSFER SOMALIA TO BECOME PAO. PAY LYNN MARTIN (PH.D. IN GERMAN) BEGAN JUNIOR OFFICER TRAINING IN MONROVIA IN FEBRUARY. KISSINGER

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